

is at risk. And if a basic need like housing isn't met, parents will struggle to maintain steady employment and children will not learn as well in school. There is no facet of life untouched by this issue.

Eric Burmeister and his team at the Polk County Housing Trust Fund (PCHTF) have been fighting tooth and nail to make sure our most vulnerable neighbors have somewhere stable to call home. Not only does the organization lead local efforts on planning, advocating, and funding for affordable housing in the state's most populous county, its team also finds meaningful ways to help individuals through housing challenges.

Recently due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've seen a dramatic increase in evictions in Polk County and across the state. To combat the issue, Burmeister, along with the PCHTF and Iowa Legal Aid, came up with a new program to help renters avoid eviction. Implemented nearly a month ago, the project is set up just outside Polk County's eviction court to connect tenants with legal assistance and immediate rental assistance. Funded by \$800,000 from Polk County's share of federal CARES Act funding, the emergency program provides low-barrier funding that can cover rent through the end of September and as far back as March 15. Burmeister's goal for the program is to provide one more reinforcement in the safety net to help Polk County residents avoid homelessness during the pandemic. Since the program began Sept. 1, it's already helped prevent 61 evictions affecting 149 residents, 77 of them children.

Eric has been involved in affordable housing advocacy for decades. He came to the PCHTF in 2010 after a thirty-year career in real estate development and finance. A graduate of Drake University Law School, he has represented developers of notable commercial and residential redevelopment projects in the Des Moines metro area, including the historic Kirkwood Hotel, Brown Camp Lofts, and the Newin Dairy Lofts. Burmeister also has a long history of involvement in the Des Moines community, serving in leadership positions with The Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers' Association, The Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, and most recently on the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of Grand View University where he teaches part-time in the business department. He stays active in several Des Moines neighborhood associations and is currently serving on steering committees as a community representative for affordable housing issues.

Through his tireless dedication to addressing this issue and finding countless ways to get involved in his community, Eric shows us what it means to be an Iowan. Since before I took office, I've said the best problem solvers live right here in Iowa's third congressional district. Eric's sensible solution to help his neighbors avoid homelessness during a global pandemic is one more example of that fact. I'm forever proud of Iowans like him who have stepped up to the plate to help address this pressing issue. I will continue to promote and push for legislation in Congress that enables organizations like the Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Iowa Legal Aid, and advocates like Eric to work towards their goal of affordable housing and eradication of homelessness. It is my privilege to recognize Eric Burmeister as Iowan of the Week.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD W. SULLIVAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and congratulate Director Ronald W. Sullivan for his nearly two decades of dedicated service to Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD).

Director Sullivan has been a Board Member at EMWD since January 2003, representing Division 4, which includes the cities of Menifee and Perris. During his tenure on the Board, Director Sullivan has dedicated himself to helping EMWD advance projects that provide a more reliable water supply for future generations of customers in western Riverside County. He has helped EMWD secure hundreds of millions of dollars in local, state and federal funds that have expanded water, wastewater and recycled water infrastructure. He played a pivotal role in the advancement of EMWD's groundwater desalination program, including the Perris II Desalter. Mr. Sullivan was also a driving force behind the completion of modernized sewer systems in the economically disadvantaged communities of Quail Valley and Enchanted Heights; both projects were offset by significant external funding.

Director Sullivan was passionate about addressing arid west issues. He served as a board member on the National Water Resources Association, was a federal affairs liaison for the Association of California Water Agencies, and was honored by the Texas Water Conservation Association for his dedication to multi-state collaboration on federal issues with Texas. Mr. Sullivan was a tireless advocate in Washington, DC, providing testimony before Congress and pushing federal agencies to partner with EMWD to address the needs of his constituents.

Director Sullivan has served as EMWD's representative to the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA), which manages the Inland Empire Brine Line and other regional watershed management programs as well as the Western Riverside Council of Governments. He is a former Riverside County Planning Commissioner, and City of Hemet Planning Commissioner.

Ron is a great American, a true public servant, and a friend. The entire Southern California region, as well as the arid west, thank Ron for his many years of dedicated service and I wish him the best in his next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID M. BARRON

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of David M. Barron, who passed away this month at the age of 79. Mr. Barron was a colleague of mine in Monterey Park, California, a longtime resident of California's 27th Congressional District, and a dedicated public servant.

Mr. Barron was born in East Los Angeles on September 29, 1941, and was the youngest of

four siblings. He attended East Los Angeles College for several years and transferred to California State University, Los Angeles, where he would go on to receive his B.A. in Journalism and Communications in 1965. His passion for journalism led him to work as a writer and editor for the Belvedere Citizen and Eastside Journal for many years after college, and he would later go on to publish the Monterey Park Journal and the West Valley Journal for over 20 years.

Mr. Barron met his wife at East Los Angeles College and the two married in 1963. They moved to Monterey Park in 1966 where he began his long career in public service to the community. He served on the Monterey Park Planning Commission for several years before being elected Monterey Park City Clerk in 1988, where I worked alongside him as a member of the City Council. Among his many accomplishments as City Clerk, Mr. Barron was credited with bringing electronic touchscreen voting to the city. He retired from his long career as City Clerk in 2013 after 25 years in the role, but was dedicated to continue his service to the community. He then served for six years on the Board of Trustees for the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library and was a member of the Monterey Park Library Foundation.

Mr. Barron is survived by his beloved wife Mary Ellen, four children, 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He leaves behind an enduring legacy of service to Monterey Park and the San Gabriel Valley, and it is my distinct honor to commemorate his life.

CONGRATULATING NED GOLD

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ned Gold, of Warren, Ohio, who earlier this year was awarded the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor, the Silver Buffalo Award.

Mr. Gold, who has been in Scouting for more than 70 years, was one of 14 to be honored nationally this year. The Silver Buffalo Award is the distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. It is awarded for extraordinary service to youth on a national level.

Ned has spent countless hours contributing to the work of Scouting, including helping to found the Philmont Staff Association, which supports the Philmont Scout Ranch, the largest youth camp in the world, located in Cimarron, New Mexico.

Additionally, Ned is credited with bringing a 450-piece fine art collection, which includes 65 scouting-themed paintings by Norman Rockwell, out of storage and on exhibit at the Medici Museum of Art in my Congressional District.

Outside of Scouting, Mr. Gold has greatly contributed to the Mahoning Valley community. I am unaware of any other lawyer who devotes as much pro-bono time in our community as Ned. Through his dedicated work with Trumbull 100, our primary civic organization, Mr. Gold has made significant contributions to the economic development within our community. Ned has also led organized movements in our community to honor our veterans